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From: Dive4Blood@aol.com
To: Dale.E.Beter@saj02.usace.army.mil
Subject: Palm Beach Reefs
Date: Wed, 9 Oct 2002 17:11:25 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
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Sir,

My understanding is that a proposal to renourish the beachfront in Palm Beach is under consideration. Part of this plan calls for a barrow area that

is less than 500 feet from some of our most cherished and beautiful reefs. I

must strongly object to such a plan.

Beach renourishment/dredging plans in the past always promised minimal "sludge" or outwash onto our reefs. Yet actual results often were just the opposite. Several hundred feet simply isnt enough of a buffer to assure the protection and preservation of our nationally reknowned shallow reefs.

The fact is that Palm Beach has refused in the past to pay to maintain its beaches, and now wishes to push the financial costs to other government agencies, and to push the ecological costs to others area residents. I cannot

protest strongly enough against your plans to put our reefs at so clear of a risk, and a high risk at that. Those 60' reefs are the primary building blocks of the local offshore marine ecosystem and must be protected al nearly all costs.

I'm sorry if alternative yet safer methods of beachfront renourishment cost more. Thats simply no reason to risk the destruction of our invaluable and irreplaceable marine habitat. Local reefs are already stressed beyond historic levels by pollution and other byproducts of human activity, so blanketing them with silt could very well be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Alan Meltzer
5256 Bosque Ln #15
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

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